

A payment that cannot be linked to supporting documentation is an unauthorized payment. It may not be legitimate.

Without documentation, we do not know how the money was used.

That is my concern, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Pentagon bureaucrats have an unblemished record of mismanaging the peoples' money.

Now, is it smart to give a bureaucratic institution like the Pentagon that cannot control and account for the use of public money more public money—as some of my colleagues propose?

DOD should not get any extra money until it cleans up the books.

More money is not the answer. Better management is.●

A TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM H. ACEBES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, today I want to congratulate Command Sgt. Maj. William H. Acebes on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Army.

Command Sergeant Major Acebes began his Army career 30 years ago when he completed basic training at Fort Polk, LA. I am pleased to note that he completed his advanced individual training in my home State of Georgia, at Fort Gordon. Since then, he has served in virtually every non-commissioned officer leadership position.

Overseas, Command Sergeant Major Acebes has served numerous tours of duty with United States Forces in both Europe and Asia. In Germany he was assigned to the Berlin Brigade and later, to the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Forward) at Bad Toelz. During the Vietnam war, he served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was an advisor with the United States Army Military Assistance Command. His most recent overseas assignment was in South Korea, where he was the command sergeant major of the 2nd Infantry Division.

Bill Acebes' stateside assignments have included serving as the first sergeant of Headquarters Company and the command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Ranger Regiment. Also, he served as the battalion command sergeant major for the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2d Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Since 1992, he has served as the U.S. Army Infantry Center Command Sergeant Major at Fort Benning, GA.

During his 30-year Army career, Bill Acebes has received numerous awards and decorations in recognition of his exemplary service to the United States. These awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

I know of no soldier who sought more tough, demanding assignments than Bill Acebes. I also know of no soldier who has spent more time with the infantry—with infantry soldiers and families, than Bill Acebes. Whenever our country called, over a 30-year period, Command Sergeant Major Acebes answered. His leadership and talents will be missed.

Mr. President, I ask our colleagues to join me in thanking Command Sergeant Major William H. Acebes for his distinguished service to the Army and people of the United States.●

COMMERCIAL SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to commend the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] for the statement yesterday on the need to develop a timely solution for the management of spent nuclear fuel from the Nation's 109 commercial nuclear power plants.

As the new chairman of the Energy Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI has already assumed a leading role in examining America's policy on high-level radioactive waste management and I appreciate the chairman's ongoing commitment to change that policy to ensure that we continue to make progress in a program so vital to the national interest.

Mr. President, the United States has struggled to fashion a workable policy on high-level radioactive waste disposal since the Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed amendments to that act to direct the Department of Energy to study Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a likely repository site. A cadre of world-class scientists have been conducting first-of-a-kind experiments at Yucca Mountain to determine if the site is suitable for the ultimate disposition of spent nuclear fuel from civilian nuclear reactors as well as defense high-level radioactive waste.

Electric consumers have committed \$11 billion since 1983 to finance these studies, a total that includes \$563 million collected from consumers of nuclear electricity generated in South Carolina. Unfortunately, the year 2010 is the earliest possible date that a repository might be ready to accept spent fuel.

In the meantime, nuclear power plants across the country are running out of capacity to store spent fuel. By 1998, 26 plants will have exhausted existing capacity to store spent fuel, including the Oconee and Robinson plants in South Carolina.

In addition to designating Yucca Mountain, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act made the Federal Government responsible for taking title to spent nuclear fuel beginning in 1998.

In order to meet its obligations, therefore, the Federal Government must now develop a temporary storage

facility for spent fuel from the Nation's nuclear power plants. In just 3 years DOE is scheduled to assume responsibility for the spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants. It must begin planning now to build and operate a facility to fulfill that obligation.

Legislation introduced in both the Senate and House would develop an integrated approach to spent fuel management, including the construction and operation of a single Federal facility to store spent fuel until a permanent solution is available. Legislation in both Chambers identifies the sensible location for such a storage facility—the Nevada test site.

This Federal facility is the most logical location for such an interim site. It borders Yucca Mountain, a remote, unpopulated, and arid location in the Nevada Desert. Moreover, the site is on land that has been dedicated to underground nuclear testing for more than 40 years, and thus appropriately dedicated to a project like this one.

Building a central storage facility at the Nevada test site does not prejudice the question of whether Yucca Mountain is suitable, but there are tremendous advantages to locating it there. Among the most appealing is ease of transportation of the spent fuel from storage facility to repository.

Building a central storage facility that is operating by 1998 and a repository by 2010 will save electric consumers \$5 billion over the life cycle of the waste management program. These cost savings will be further enhanced, primarily through ease of transportation, if the storage facility is located near the repository site.

Mr. President, the time has come to address the problems that have plagued the Department of Energy's nuclear waste management program. We can take the first step this year by authorizing and using funds already contributed by electricity consumers to develop a central storage facility in Nevada.●

DESECRATION OF THE U.S. FLAG

● Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit for the RECORD the memorializing resolutions from the States of Washington, Hawaii, and Oregon calling on the Congress to pass an amendment to the Constitution that protects the United States flag from desecration. I think these resolutions are a wonderful reminder that the movement and support for an amendment to protect the flag begin at the grassroots level. Up to this point, 49 States have passed memorializing resolutions in support of a flag protection amendment. I ask unanimous consent that the texts of these resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

STATE OF WASHINGTON: SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

Whereas, Although the right of free expression is part of the foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn